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5 JUN 1970

Lt. General Donald V. Bennett
Director
Defense Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Don:

Your thoughtful letter of 25 May commenting on the draft "Intelligence Planning Guidance for the 1970s" is much appreciated and will be very useful in the re-draft which will evolve from the comments being received from all of the USIB agencies.

I have given very careful thought to your proposal that a special USIB committee be formed to institutionalize the annual production of such a guidance document, with its dissemination to coincide with start of the intelligence PPBS cycle. While I am certainly in accord with the concept of a paper updated annually and also agree that its usefulness would be enhanced by making it available in time to provide a point of departure for PPBS activities, on balance I do not believe it would be advantageous to produce the paper within the formalized USIB committee structure.

Instead, it seems to me preferable that the document should be prepared and issued as an expression of the views of the Director of Central Intelligence in his community and coordinating role.

As the paper is being developed I would ask that the USIB agencies provide points of contact from whom the responsible drafting officer could obtain advice and comments. I would not expect this, however, to represent formal concurrence in the draft submitted for my consideration.

If it should turn out there is any basic disagreement on the part of a particular agency with respect to the guidance paper itself, then either the USIB or the NIRB--depending on the nature of the issue--would be an appropriate forum for further discussion.

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Over-all, the guidance paper I visualize would not be directive in nature, in the sense that it would not set manpower or fiscal limitations, but would represent the personal views of the DCI as to the direction in which he considered the intelligence community should be moving and his interpretation of the major factors expected to have a bearing on intelligence planning. Such a paper, it seems to me, should more properly be issued by the DCI to the various members of the intelligence community rather than work up to him through the formal channels of the USIB structure.

Your attention to the problem is gratifying, and I am certain the resulting paper will benefit from the DIA comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms

NIPE:JABross:dm(4 Jun 70)

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